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**Wasco Tribune**

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Vol. 42 No. 23 • Wasco, California • Thursday, December 5, 2019

# Latest health crisis: Vaping



Jennifer Acidero speaks to Coalition audience.

## Coalition hears of dangers for kids

TONI DEROSA  
Wasco Tribune

Attendees at the latest Wasco Coalition meeting heard the health risks of vaping.

The guest speakers for Wednesday’s meeting came from the California Health Collaborative, led by Community Engagement Coordinator Celeste Ramos and Program Manager Jennifer Acidero.

One who vapes inhales and exhales aerosol, often called vapor, produced by an e-cigarette or similar device.

When the device is used, the battery heats up e-liquid into an aerosol that is inhaled into the lungs and then exhaled.

Both speakers discussed the dangers of tobacco and their work with high school students; however, Acidero stated that the dangers need to be brought to the attention of elementary school students because children as young as 12 years old are already vaping. “One of the dangers is the different tobacco flavors that are available for sale,” Acidero said. “We need to get the message to the kids when they are young.”

Both speakers stated that tobacco companies are targeting youth. “Four out of five who started with tobacco, started with flavored tobacco,” Ramos said.

Ramos also added that:

- \$9.4 billion is spent on marketing efforts.
- 17.7 million people are exposed through retail advertising.
- 10.6 million people are exposed the vape promotions through the internet.

Additionally, Acidero said that while cigarette use has dropped, e-cigarette use has increased.

Ramos also stated that with tobacco companies targeting youth that is a concern for Wasco because “Nearly 32.4 percent of the population in Wasco is under 21.”



California Health Collaborative’s Celeste Ramos.

## HSR wants pact changes

TONI DEROSA  
Wasco Tribune

WASCO -- The Wasco City Council listened to changes the High Speed Rail Authority has proposed in its agreements with the city.

City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez presented Amendment #3 sent to the city from the HRSA at the council’s meeting Tuesday night.

Ortiz-Hernandez told council members and attendees that the city had originally entered into an agreement with the HSR in early 2014.

According to Ortiz-Hernandez, that agreement authorized the city to be compensated for staff and



Father Raul Sanchez of St. John’s Evangelical Church was presented with a proclamation celebrating the church’s 100th anniversary.

resources spent on the HSR project through Wasco by cost recovery. This agreement expires Dec. 31.

Even though the original agreement was intended to cover the city’s cost of staff and resources that applied

See CITY Page 5

See VAPING Page 5

## Pond runners head to Junior Olympics

TONI DEROSA  
Wasco Tribune

The Pond Running Club, a nonprofit orga-

nization under the guidance and coaching of Humberto Vargas, has been fundraising toward

another trip for runners to compete in the Junior Olympics.

Vargas, the director of transportation and the founder/volunteer coach of the running club, is currently trying to raise enough money to take 11 of his qualifying runners to the Junior Olympics in Knoxville, Tenn., on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Nicholas Vargas will be competing in the category for ages 8 and under.

Competing in the girls 9-10 age division is Julissa Vargas. Tanya Vargas is competing in the 11-12 division and both Miranda Cortez and Ivy Almanza



Runner Julissa Vargas.

are competing in the 13-14 category.

Competing in the boys 9-10 category are Emmanuel Bustamante, Adrian Gonzalez and Jose Diaz

Diaz, while Marcus Segura and Jesus Diaz Diaz are

See POND Page 5



Brothers Jose Diaz Diaz and Jesus Diaz Diaz.



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# Community Calendar

For updates or to submit additional information about a club, organization or meeting listed in this public service column, call the Wasco Tribune at 661-292-5100 or email calendar@WascoTrib.com.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW:** Christmas at the Depot — Starting Dec. 7 and every Saturday after in December until the first weekend of January from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., come and check out all the Christmas trees on display at the Shafter Depot, 150 Central Valley Highway, and vote for your favorite.

**NEW:** Community awards -- The 72nd Annual Community Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Shafter Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, is Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the Shafter Ford Theatre. Tickets may be purchased at the Chamber office. Information, call(661-746-2600

**Shafter Christmas Tree Lighting & Singing** — Monday, Dec. 9, starting at 6 p.m. in downtown Shafter plaza, on the corner of Central Avenue and James Street.

**UPDATED:** Santa arrives — Santa Claus is flying into the Minter Field Air Museum, with a stuffed animal giveaway courtesy of Ming Avenue Petsmart. Santa arrives Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.; open house 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Minter Field Air Museum, 401 Vultee Ave., Shafter.

**Shafter Animal Control** — Donations are welcomed: Nonplumping cat litter, kitten/puppy chow and stainless steel buckets. Drop off donations at the shelter, 18849 Shafter Ave. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Wednesday 1-7 p.m.

Free rides for students -- Kern Transit is offering free rides to all students enrolled at Bakersfield College with valid student ID, through finals week Saturday, Dec. 24.

Library events -- Every day/all day events at the Shafter Branch Library. Kids Coloring Craze, Game On! Puzzle-mania.

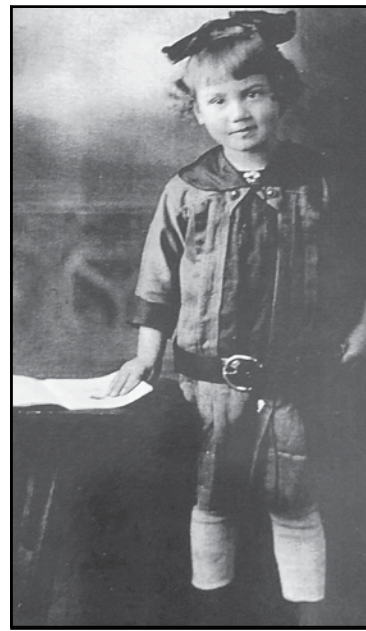
## MONDAY

**FREE Zumba Gold** (modified Zumba) — FREE to all ages. Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., at 505 Sunset Ave., the Walker Senior Center. Call Shafter Recreation for information, 661-746-3303.

**Influencers** -- Women's group in Shafter. Mondays at 6 p.m. at 350 Pine St. in the Fellowship Hall. A journey-

## Mystery history

Here's this week's challenge, courtesy of the Wasco Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to the *Tribune*, 406 Central Ave., Shafter 93263, or e-mail it to [mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com](mailto:mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com). Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** Josie Krause in 1918 -- Marlene Fannin Swann's mother.



guiding women into an intimate relationship with Christ. For more information, call. Rebecca, 661-549-0237.

**North Kern 4H** -- Meetings at 7 p.m. second Monday of each month. Located at 523 Broadway St. at the Karl Clemens Elementary School Cafeteria, Wasco.

**SRPD** --The Shafter Recreation and Parks Department Board of Directors meets on the second Monday at the Walker Senior Center, 505 Sunset, at 6 p.m.

**SWAT** -- Senior Wellness 55 years + at 5, 6 and 7 p.m., at 505 Sunset Ave.

**Richland school board** -- Richland School District board meets on the first Monday at Golden Oak cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.

**Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault** -- Services available on Mondays in Shafter: case management 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (English and Spanish); Peer support group 3-4 p.m. Spanish; peer support group 4-5 p.m. English. Meetings held at 329 Central Ave. Information, 661-322-0931.

24-hour Crisis Line 661-327-1091 or 800-273-7713.

**Kern High School District board** -- Meeting the second Monday at 5801 Sundale Ave., Bakersfield at 7 p.m.

**NA** -- Meeting is held every Monday at the Shafter Veterans Hall, 301 California Ave., at 7 p.m.

**AARP** -- Meetings for the American Association of Retired People are held on the third Monday at the Walker Senior Center, 505 Sunset Ave., at 1:30 pm.

**AMVETS** - The Shafter post of the AMVET meets the first and third Monday at 7 p.m. at the Veterans Hall, 301 California Ave.

**Kern County Library** -- Weekly events include trivia all day, Knitting Club at 11:30 a.m., Scholar Hour at 2:30 p.m. at the Shafter branch, 236 James St.

## TUESDAY

**Adult Hip Hop Class** -- 7 p.m. at the Shafter Recreation Walker Senior Center at 505 Sunset. Classes are \$3 donations. Led by Brandi Root.

**Food Pantry** — Food giveaway the third Sunday, Shafter Christian Fellowship, 632 James St., starting at 1 p.m. First come, first served.

**Lions Club** -- Meetings second and fourth Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. at the Veterans Hall.

**Chair exercise 55+** -- 11 a.m. at W.C. Walker Center.

**Arts & crafts 55 years +** -- Meeting 10 a.m. at W.C. Walker Center.

**Community Bible study** -- Nondenominational study meets 10 a.m. at Valley Bible Church.

**City Council** --Shafter City Council meets the first and third Tuesdays at 336 Pacific Ave. at 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission**-- Shafter Planning Commission meets second Tuesdays at 336 Pacific Ave. at 7 p.m.

**PTA** -- The Richland Parent Teachers Association meets the first Tuesday at Sequoia Elementary School, 500 East Fresno Ave., in the library at 6:30 p.m.

**American Legion Auxiliary** -- The American Legion Auxiliary meets on the first Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Hall. The auxiliary also hosts a potluck dinner at the Veterans Hall, 301 California Ave. on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

**Alzheimer's** -- Shafter Healthcare holds Alzheimer's support group meetings on the third Tuesday, 2-4 p.m., at the Shafter Convalescent Hospital, 140 East Tulare Ave. Information, 661-746-3912.

**SWAT** -- Senior Wellness 55 years + at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. at Walker Senior Center, 505 Sunset Ave.

## PET OF THE WEEK

# Jazz is looking for a new home

Jazz is a small, senior female pomeranian with a red/chestnut/orange medium coat. Jazz came in as a stray. The female is approximately an 8 years old. She was scanned for microchip and nothing was found.

Jazz is great with staff and other dogs. She will be available for adoption on Dec. 10. If you are interested in Jazz, please come by the shelter and give her a visit!

Animals cannot be adopted or placed on "hold" during their stray hold. It is first come, first served on the day the animal is available for adoption.

Call 661-758-7240 for more information, or stop by the shelter at 5409 7th St. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

—Wasco Animal Control



**Visit Jazz at the Wasco Animal Shelter. She will be available Dec. 10. (Wasco Animal Shelter photo.)**

## ARREST LOG

*As reported by the Kern County Sheriff's Department, Wasco substation*

### Nov. 25

Gustavo Oliveras, 28, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of D Street and 8th Place for possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Heriberto Zavala, 35, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of D Street and 8th Place for possession of a controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia and driving without a license. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Nov. 26

Jose Alvarez, 23, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1400 block of Highway 46 for second degree burglary, conspiracy to commit a crime and carrying a loaded firearm in a public place. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Alejandro Hernandez, 36, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1400 block of Highway 46 for second-degree

burglary, conspiracy to commit a crime and carrying a loaded firearm in a public place. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Raul Hernandez, 25, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1400 block of Highway 46 for second degree burglary, carrying a loaded firearm in a public place and conspiracy to commit a crime. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Christopher Rodriguez, 23, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of F and 9th streets for child cruelty, possession of a controlled substance, destroying/concealing evidence and possession of paraphernalia. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Nov. 27

Juan Alvarez, 42, of Wasco, was arrested in the 2500 block of Krista Street

for inflicting corporal injury on a spouse. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Nov. 28

Kevin Deon Sharp, 55, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1900 block of D Street for possession of a controlled substance for sale, possession of paraphernalia, destroying/concealing evidence and obstructing/delaying a peace officer. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

William Warren, 32 of Wasco, was arrested in the 1000 block of 12th Street for false imprisonment and kidnapping. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Nov. 29

Brittany Monique Diaz, 27, of McFarland, was arrested at the intersection of North Poplar Avenue and Margalo Street on three active misdemeanor warrants. She was booked into the

Kern County Jail.

Luis Hernandez Vargas, 29, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of North Poplar Avenue and Margalo Street on an active felony warrant and possession of prohibited ammunition. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Christopher Estrada, 32, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of F Street on a misdemeanor warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Nov. 30

Jorge Ivan Martinez Cabrera, 26, of Wasco, was arrested in the 600 block of Maple Avenue for peeking into an inhabited building, attempted kidnapping and battery on a spouse. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

David Rodriguez, 35, of Wasco was arrested in the 1500 block of Shamrock Court for possession of a

controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Dec. 1

Frank Phillip Sandoval,

Jr., 20, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1500 block of Poplar Avenue for battery on a spouse. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

## Wasco Tribune

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# Clemens cites students for scores

**TONI DEROSA**  
Wasco Tribune

Karl Clemens students who either met or exceeded the 2019 California Assessment for Student Performance and Progress were recognized last week.

Principal Sam Torres announced the students at an assembly held at the school the week of Nov. 18-22.

Four groups of students were recognized. Eight students in Group 1 showed growth of at least one level of increased performance on either Math or English Language Acquisition. Those students were Cristofer Cervantes Canchola, Briana Cruz, Ivan Gallardo Morado, Charles Grundt, Wyatt Pugh, Jacqueline Reyes Rios, Adriana Rodriguez and Anthony Ruiz Caballero. Each student received a framed certificate.

The second group of 26 students either met or exceeded in either ELA or math. Students in Group 2 included Zenaída Amador, Alexia Antonio, Alexis Chaidez Ontiveros, Edgar Cruz Maya, Nickolas Dye, Julian Garza, Jocelynn Gonzalez Tellez, German Guillen, Adam Hopkins, Daniel Lopez Vasquez, Leslie Mata, Anthony McCullar, Alyssa Medrano, Erick Moreno Escalente, Jason Ramirez, Noah Raya, Harley Reza, Alexis Rodriguez Soriano, Lydia Rosales Sainz, Nyomi Rubio Conners, Azucena Santiago Perez, Giselle Saucedo, Jeffrain Shinderls, Sonia Torres, Jose Trevino Rodriguez and Jesus Vasquez Cabezas. These students also received a framed certificate.

There were 27 students from Group 3 that met or exceeded in both ELA and mathematics, which included Alexa Aboytes, Diana Almanza, David Barboza, Jazmine Beltran, Emilio Chacon, Lorena Chavez Aquino, Hailey Crawford, Deblyn Diaz Salazar, Anthony Garza, Melanie Gutierrez, David Jimenez Coronado, Scarlett Lara, Kourtney Lovato, Ezekiel Martinez, Daisy Mesa, Leopoldo Ocampo, Desmond Pack Valeria Perez Gonzalez, Damian Ramos, Ramon Raya, Antonio Rosas Flores, Anabel Sanchez, Jose Sanchez Patino, Brise Shoreque, Jacqueline Vargas, Allison Vazquez Arias and Ciara Vigil. Each student also received a framed certificate.

Four students formed Group 4, which exceed in both ELA and mathematics. This group included Fernando Altamirano, Jonathan Osorio Osorio, Liliana Sanchez and Daniel Vidales Vera. These four students each received a framed certificate with a gold seal and a plaque.

According to Torres, the timing for this recognition ceremony is in November to remind students how important performance on the CAASPP assessment is. "When students return from Thanksgiving break, students from grades third through fifth will be taking the CAASPP Interim Assessments in both ELA and mathematics," Torres said. "This is a practice test with a similar format and difficulty that they will take when they take the spring assessment."

Torres added that teachers use the test results to guide lesson planning to ensure that students are best prepared for the formative CASPP assessment in the spring.



**TOP:** Group 2 students either met or exceeded standards in either math or ELA. **MIDDLE:** Group 3 students that met or exceeded standards in both ELA and math. **BOTTOM:** Group 1 students showed growth in either ELA or math. **RIGHT:** Group 4 students who exceeded standards in both ELA and math.



**Grades 7-8 Verse Choir 1st place** were Priscilla Raya, Montserrat Villagomez, Yasmin Ramirez and Catilia Duran.



**Grades 4-6 Serious Duo 1st place** from Burke were Liliana Sanchez and Scarlett Lara.



**TJ's cafeteria** was standing room only during the district's oral language festival.



**One of the classrooms** where the competitions took place.

## TJ hosts district oral language festival

**TONI DEROSA**  
Wasco Tribune

With fall almost ending, it's time for oral language festivals in local districts.

Wasco Union Elementary School District held its oral language festival last month in the Thomas Jefferson cafeteria.

Students, parents and guests filled the room eager to follow their favorite student competitor and watch them perform.

The district oral language competition is held to determine which students will represent the district at the regional level in December in Shafter on Dec. 10.

Several people from TJ were involved in making this event successful.

Fourth-through sixth-grade categories included serious duo, humorous duo and verse choir.

Grades seven and eight included serious solo, humorous solo, serious duo, humorous duo and verse choir.

### Grades 4-6

Serious Duo: 1st place Liliana Sanchez and Scarlett Lara from Clemens recited "First Day Jitters" by Julie Danneberg. 2nd place from Burke, Camila Zendejas and Lizbeth Vargas recited "the Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein.

Humorous Duo: 1st place Alyssa Torres and Allison Ortiz from Burke recited "Seriously Cinderella is so Annoying! The Story of Cinderella as told by the Wicked Stepmother" by Trisha Shasken. 2nd place from Clemens were Jacqueline Momcada and Valeria Perez, who recited "The Recess Queen" by Alexis O'Neil.

Verse Choir: 1st place Josiah Lopez,

Lilly Martinez, Yerelin Cepeda, Angel Gil and Andrew Torres from Burke recited "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt. 2nd place were Daniella Torres, Priscilla Arceo, Zoey Martinez and Allison Lopez, who recited "Believe Me, Goldilocks Rocks" by Nancy Loewen.

### Grade 7-8

Serious Solo: 1st place winner was Abigail Martinez from TJ who recited "Missing Mandy" by Peg Kehret. 2nd place was Izabella Heedia from TJ, who recited "A Friendship to Remember" by Beneta Leonard.

Humorous Solo: 1st place was Adolfo Villagomez from TJ, who recited "Smelly Pants" by Rebecca Young. 2nd place was Bryan Sanchez from TJMS, who recited "I'll Know When I'm Mature" by Shirley

Ullom

Serious Duo: 1st place was Kelly Dominguez and Zayda Orpineda from TJ, who recited "Losing Mom" by Diana Carson. 2nd place were Alejandra Diaz and Lizeida Villanueva from TJMS, who recited "It's Hard to Say Goodbye" by Shirley Ullom.

Humorous Duo: 1st place was Alex Mendoza and Alexis Mendoza from TJ, who recited "Craig (My Parents Have Deserted Me!)" by Chamber Stevens. 2nd place were Rosalie Sanchez Lemus and Victoria Carreno from TJ, who recited "Kristin and Janice" by Ruth Mae Rodd.

Verse Choir: 1st place were Priscilla Raya, Montserrat Villagomez, Yasmin Ramirez, Catalia Duran from TJ, who recited "Prieta and the Ghost Woman" by Gloria Anzaldúa.

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# FOCUS ON LOCAL BUSINESS

## El Dorado: the source for western wear

### Store is 'perfect fit' for Mendozas

**JAMIE STEWART**

The Shafter Press / Wasco Tribune

In the last 20 years, the number of mom and pop shops and local department stores has dwindled like an endangered species. Gone is Johnson's Department Store, Wood's Shoe Store, Dave Anderson's Sports Store, and many others. But one of the few survivors will be celebrating 20 years in business in May 2020. El Dorado Western Wear has been a fixture in Shafter since its opening back on May 3, 2000.

The store, owned and operated by Patricia Mendoza and her husband, Sergio, began on Central Avenue in a tiny storefront with about 150 square feet of space. They carried boots, western wear, shoes, and selection of cowboy hats.

Over the years, the business has grown, in volume and size. A few years ago, the Mendozas had the opportunity to purchase the property next door, and they expanded their store to over 1,000 square feet.

This expansion enabled them to offer a greater variety of products, with a wide variety of shoes, brand-name boots, hats and a large selection of shirts and pants for the men, and blouses for the ladies. Mendoza said that their best sellers are probably the work boots, of which they have a large selection.

There is also a selection of shiny belt buckles and trinkets in the front of the store.

Patricia Mendoza, whose family has called Shafter home for the entire 20 years, said that has been a perfect fit. "I love Shafter. I like everything about it. It is quiet, peaceful and friendly. I have three daughters and two sons who have grown up here, and it has been a great place to raise them."

Tania Montoya, who came into the store looking for a pair of shoes for her son, said that she has been shopping at El Dorado's since her



El Dorado will be celebrating 20 years of business in May.



There is a great variety of boots and western wear in the store.

kid was a baby. "I love this store. It has a lot of the stuff that you find in the big stores in Bakersfield. I

love saving the trip there and keeping the money here in Shafter," she said.



Patricia Mendoza outside her store.

According to Donnya Mendoza, one of Patricia's daughters, "My mom said that we started out as a small business, but we have grown big but we still love being a part of a small town."

El Dorado, 260 Central Ave., is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 661-746-2676.

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A majority of the Pond Running Club members are headed to the Junior Olympics.

# Pond Running Club heads to Jr. Olympics

## From Page 1

both competing in the 11-12 division. Aaron Segura will compete in the 13-14 category.

"The kids have been training all year long for this," Vargas said. "They have proven they are ready to compete at this level of competition."

Vargas also mentioned that several kids are ranked in the top 20 nationally. Aaron Segura took 2nd in the Kern County Finals and Julissa Vargas got 3rd in the Kern County Finals.

"All donations to the Pond Running Club are tax deductible," Coach Vargas said. "We need your help to make this happen for the

young athletes."

Donation checks can be made out to the Pond Run-

ning Club and mailed to 30705 Pond Road, McFarland 93250.



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## City reviewing rail changes

### From Page 1

to the city's involvement and analysis of the project, Ortiz-Hernandez stated that the HSRA has changed the interpretation of the agreement.

"Their explanation is that only certain activities were to be reimbursed by HSRA, while other activities are to be covered by HSRA's contractor, California Rail Builders," Ortiz-Hernandez said.

He stated that the city submitted an invoice in the amount of \$84,184 and was asked to redo the invoice under these guidelines. He told the council members that the city has only received \$46,243.

He then stated that according to the HSRA, the city is supposed to bill \$29,736 to CRB, even though the city does not have an agreement or documentation with the CRB.

The city wants to consolidate nine separate agreements into one complete agreement. "The city has identified various issues with having so many agreements including inconsistent terms and references," Ortiz-Hernandez said.

He said the HSRA has presented the city with an amendment to the original contract. The amendment changes these items:

- The term of the agreement is March 14, 2014, through Dec. 31, 2021, extending the pact two years.

- The term of the agreement is March 14, 2014 through December 31, 2021, extending the pact two years.

- The city wants to consolidate nine separate agreements into one complete agreement. "There is no way the city can keep track of all the agreements,"

Ortiz-Hernandez said.

In other council business, the council unanimously approved the city manager to purchase 22 desktop computers from Granite Data Solutions in an estimated amount of \$15,614 plus taxes and fees.

The city manager stated that beginning Jan. 1, Microsoft will no longer support Windows 8 operating software, so the city needs to upgrade their desktop computers.

In other business:

- Father Raul Sanchez was presented with a proclamation acknowledging St. John's Evangelical Church's 100th anniversary.

- Census 2020 Coordinator Karla Hutcherson presented the reasons that everyone being counted during the 2020 census is important. She asked the mayor and council members

to form a committee called Complete Count for Wasco.

Hutcherson also emphasized the importance of everyone completing the census because it is the only way the federal government has an accurate count of residents living in each household, since federal funding is often based on demographics. "The census is how cities get funding for 132 federal programs such as education, medical and food," Hutcherson said.

- Two public comments were made. Camilo Vasquez thanked the city for its collaboration with the Downtown Business Association in putting on the Christmas parade, and Linda Camillo addressed the council about a neighbor flying a drone in her neighborhood and over her house. She would like the city to regulate the use of drones.



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## Vaping a concern for kids

### From Page 1

"Some of the available tobacco flavors are enticing to the young such as Raz-zleberry Ring Pop, Candy Corn, Cotton Candy, Strawberry Shortcake, Joosy-Licious, Marshmallow Man, Pop Clouds, Lemon Drops, Bubblegum, Unicorn Poop, Coco Pops, etc."

Ramos also mentioned that flavored tobacco comes in trendy containers that are easily disguised from tobacco products.

"One Jul Pop (cartridge) is equal to 20 cigarettes," Ramos continued.

Both Acidero and Ramos warned that it's difficult for parents to know what to look for when it comes to some tobacco products because of their disguised containers. Parents have to

know what is out there.

"There is no research yet on the long-term health effects on vaping," Acidero said. "There are studies on the short-term effects, which are interference with brain function, irritability and other negative outcomes."

Following the presentation by the California Health Collaborative, VFW member Danny Rueda asked if the collaborative would do presentations at elementary schools. He was assured that they would be happy to make elementary school presentations for any school.

Once the question-and-answer period was over, each representative from an organization made their announcements for the re-

mainder of the year.

- Sergeant Peter Martinez of the KERN County Sheriff's Department, Wasco substation, warned about making sure all packages are placed out of sight and not to leave anything on the car seats.

- City Manager of Wasco Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez addressed concerns about students crossing the street at Highway 46 and Poplar to get to and from school. He mentioned that CalTrans was looking into integrating a way to minimize the danger for pedestrians.

- Council member Gilberto Reyna stated that he has been in touch with Congressman TJ Cox regarding Cox's new water bill to eliminate contaminants from the local drinking wa-

ter.

- Danny Rueda, president of the WUESD board, reported that the Maintenance Operations Transit building will be completed during the Christmas holiday break.

- Assistant Superintendent of Wasco High School (WHS) Rob Cobb announced that the science building remodel is almost complete.

The next coalition meeting will be Feb. 5 at the old courthouse building, 810 8th St., at 7 a.m. The meetings are open to the public.



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*Cordially,*  
*Rick and Amy Woody,*  
*and the staff of Peters Funeral Home*



Robert has grown from a very quiet student to a student who is willing to speak out and participate in class at any time. His attendance, attitude and grades are testament to a student who has learned to SOAR.



County of Kern.  
Date: Nov. 22, 2019  
/s/Jose R. Benavides  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
Publish *Wasco* Tribune December 5,  
12 19 26 2019



## PASTOR'S CORNER

## Take a break and see what happens

## PASTOR JIM NEAL

No, I am not going to preach you a sermon this morning, this verse is just apropos to what I have been thinking about and dealing with -- thought maybe some of you have also. Have you ever just wanted to stop the world for just a few minutes? We move at such a rapid pace in 2019 -- we used to have to wait for the evening paper or Walter Cronkite to come on the 6 o'clock news to let us know what was happening around the world. Now all we need do is "move a mouse," click a button and *shazam* we are current.

We hop in cars and speed to work, drive thru McD's or C.J.'s on the way grab a muffin or biscuit sandwich and "woof" it down in the car, as we walk to work or in front of our business computer as it warms up.

Some even jump on airplanes and traverse endless miles to complete transactions and return home for supper in the evening. Those of us old enough to remember life when things seemed so much slower and serene although our Wheaties for breakfast were probably not any more nourishing than their fast-food counter parts today.

So, when we try to slow down as the Psalmist suggests, it seems such a monumental task. You see we might sit somewhere quiet and pause for a season of solitude; however our world does not slow down, does it? We close our eyes to

meditate and maybe even attempt to get in touch with the Almighty and what happens? Our minds take over it is like «Ping-Pong balls» in a popcorn machine going every which way with a plethora of thoughts (good and bad).

Why is that? A couple of ideas: First and foremost, if your reason for quietness is actually to meditate on the good things God has provided

you then the enemy is upset and does all in his power to thwart those moments. Secondly and sadly we have not been disciplined to exercise our minds to direct them toward meditation, quietness and spiritual

conversation, have we?

I promise you this if you will begin to discipline yourself for a mere 15 minutes a day to this regimen; the rewards will be astronomical. Oh, you might not become a spiritual guru, or a master at closing every sale, nor you will probably not solve any gigantic world problem. But I'll bet my last dollar that you will become a better you, a better spouse and co-worker and even someone with whom others look forward to being around -- and you know that won't be all bad, will it?

Hey, "Be still and know that He is God" and watch and live a much more peaceful and joyful life. Have a great week *being still*.

Jim Neal is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Shafter.

*"Be still and know  
that I am God..."*  
— Psalm 46a

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Members are nominated and appointed by the full Council  
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Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, City  
Hall, 746 8th Street, or at the City website: **www.ci.wasco.ca.us**  
Applications must be returned to the **City Clerk's Office by 5:00  
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